

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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LAB-04 SIL-01 AF-10 NEA-11 IO-14 PM-05 DODE-00
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R 151704Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7308
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MADRID

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USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EEC, EP, ECIN, PEPR
SUBJ: EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT JUNE PLENARY SESSION -- EC
COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S ASSESSMENT OF LAST SIX MONTHS

1. SUMMARY: JUNE 14 THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT (EP) HEARD
EC COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANDERSEN'S (DANISH FOREIGN MINISTER)
ASSESSMENT OF THE DANISH PRESIDENCY OF THE LAST SIX
MONTHS. NOTING THAT HE HAD PROMISED NO MIRACLES LAST
JANUARY, HE NEVERTHELESS FELT THAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE
IN SUCH AREAS AS: (A) WORKING OUT A COMMON STRATEGY FOR
ACHIEVING A HIGHER RATE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH WITHIN THE EC
AND (B) AGREEMENTS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES ON STEEL PRICES.
HE FURTHER NOTED THAT EC/GREECE ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS
ARE PROCEEDING SATISFACTORILY AND THAT THE WAY HAS BEEN
CLEARED FOR THE OPENING THIS FALL OF NEGOTIATIONS ON
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PORTUGAL'S ENTRY INTO THE EC. ON POLITICAL COOPERATION,
ANDERSEN EMPHASIZED THAT THE EC-NINE HAVE FURTHER REFINED
THEIR COMMON POSITIONS ON ISSUES RELATING TO AFRICA
(SOUTHERN RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA), THE MIDDLE EAST, CSCE,
AND DISARMAMENT, AND WILL BE FORMULATING A COMMON APPROACH
TO VARIOUS ISSUES THAT WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE FORTH-
COMING UNGA. EP REACTION TO DANISH PRESIDENCY WAS OVER-

WHELMINGLY FAVORABLE AS SPOKESMEN FROM ALL POLITICAL GROUPS PRAISED ANDERSEN'S PERSONAL EFFORTS AT STRENGTHENING COOPERATION BETWEEN THE COUNCIL AND THE EP. CRITICISM WAS LEVELLED, HOWEVER, AT THE COUNCIL'S FAILURE TO BE MORE RESPONSIVE TO COMMISSION PROPOSALS RELATING TO ECONOMIC RECOVERY. AS RESULT OF LINKING ANDERSEN'S STATEMENT ON POLITICAL COOPERATION WITH A RESOLUTION TABLED BY THE POLITICAL GROUPS ON EC POLICY IN AFRICA, MOST MP'S STATEMENTS FOCUSED ON THE NEED FOR A MORE CONCRETE COMMON EC-NINE POLICY VIS-A-VIS THAT CONTINENT. END SUMMARY.

2. IN MAKING HIS FAREWELL STATEMENT TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AS EC COUNCIL PRESIDENT, ANDERSEN EXPRESSED REGRET THAT DESPITE STRENUOUS COUNCIL (AND DANISH PRESIDENCY) EFFORTS, COMMON EC POLICIES IN THE FISHERIES AND ENERGY SECTORS HAD BEEN UNOBTAINABLE DURING THE LAST SIX MONTHS. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE HAD BEEN SOME ACHIEVEMENTS UNDER THE DANISH PRESIDENCY. HE CITED SPECIFICALLY THE SETTING OF NEW FARM PRICES FOR 1978 WHICH SHOULD HELP REDUCE THE RATE OF INFLATION WITHIN THE EC. MOREOVER, HE DREW ATTENTION TO THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE APRIL 7-8 EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING AT WHICH A COMMON STRATEGY FOR ACHIEVING A HIGHER RATE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH HAD BEEN FORMULATED. HE FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT ON JUNE 19 THE EC FINANCE MINISTERS COUNCIL WILL CONTINUE

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DISCUSSIONS DESIGNED TO "DEFINE THE REQUIREMENTS AND ROOM FOR MANEUVER FOR EACH MEMBER STATE'S ECONOMIC POLICY, AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COORDINATING FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS AMONG THE NINE." ANDERSEN ALSO DESCRIBED THE FINANCE MINISTERS' ACCEPTANCE OF THE ORTOLI FACILITY AS A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH WHICH CAN HELP ACHIEVE A HIGHER LEVEL OF INVESTMENT IN THE EC, AND EXPRESSED HOPE FOR QUICK FINAL ACTION ON THIS NEW LOAN FACILITY. RECALLING THE DANISH REQUEST IN JANUARY TO THE COMMISSION TO RECOMMEND GUIDELINES CONCERNING VARIOUS TYPES OF INDUSTRIAL SECTORAL AID, HE NOTED THAT THE COUNCIL AT ITS JUNE 6 MEETING HAD DISCUSSED THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS ALONG WITH A GERMAN MEMORANDUM ON THIS QUESTION, AND ANNOUNCED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED ASSURANCES THAT THE MATTER WILL BE PURSUED UNDER THE GERMAN PRESIDENCY. ANDERSEN ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT STEEL SECTOR AGREEMENTS HAVE BEEN REACHED WITH A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES, NOTABLY EFTA MEMBERS, JAPAN, PORTUGAL, SPAIN, SOUTH AFRICA, SOUTH KOREA, AUSTRALIA, HUNGARY, AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA; HE SAID AGREEMENT HAS ALSO BEEN REACHED ON CERTAIN DISCOUNT ARRANGEMENTS AIMED AT ENABLING THE SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRY TO PURCHASE STEEL AT WORLD MARKET PRICES.

3. REGARDING EC/GREECE ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS, ANDERSEN SAID THAT SIGNIFICANT RESULTS HAVE BEEN OBTAINED IN THE CUSTOMS UNION, CAPITAL MOVEMENT, EXTERNAL RELATIONS, ECSC, AND EURATOM SECTORS AND NOTED THAT THE EC-NINE HAD INFORMED GREECE EARLIER THIS WEEK OF THEIR INTENTION TO BRING GREECE GRADUALLY INTO THE POLITICAL COOPERATION DISCUSSIONS (COPENHAGEN 3769). HE FURTHER SAID THAT TURKEY HAS BEEN INFORMED OF THE NINE'S AGREEMENT TO A SIMILAR ARRANGEMENT FOR TURKEY. ANDERSEN NOTED THAT ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS WITH PORTUGAL WILL BEGIN THIS FALL AND SAID HE EXPECTS THE COMMISSION'S OPINION ON SPANISH ACCESSION TO BE PRESENTED TO THE COUNCIL BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR.

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7309
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY LISBON
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4. TURNING TO EC RELATIONS WITH OTHER THIRD COUNTRIES,

ANDERSEN ANNOUNCED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL WILL DISCUSS ON JUNE 27 A COMMISSION REPORT CONCERNING THE POSSIBILITIES FOR INCREASING AND STRENGTHENING EC/EFTA ECONOMIC COOPERATION, AND SAID THE COMMUNITY HAS BEGUN PREPARING ITS COMMON POSITION FOR THE OPENING JULY 24 OF NEGOTIATIONS ON LOME II WITH THE ACP COUNTRIES. HE WELCOMED THE RECENT EC/CHINA TRADE AGREEMENT AS A POSITIVE STEP TOWARD INCREASING TRADE BETWEEN CHINA AND THE EC. FINALLY, ANDERSEN THOUGHT IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR THE EC COUNCIL IN JULY TO FIX A DEFINITE DATE FOR DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE EP NEXT YEAR SINCE, EXCEPT FOR FRANCE, ALL MEMBER STATES HAVE SUBMITTED THEIR NOTIFICATION OF RATIFICATION OF THE DIRECT ELECTIONS REGULATION.

5. CONCERNING EC-NINE POLITICAL COOPERATION, ANDERSEN UNCLASSIFIED

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NOTED THAT THE NINE HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COORDINATED THEIR POLICIES ON SUCH QUESTIONS AS EAST-WEST RELATIONS, SOUTHERN AFRICA PROBLEMS (SUPPORT FOR US/UK EFFORTS IN SOUTHERN RHODESIA AND FOR WESTERN 5 PROPOSALS ON NAMIBIA), THE CSCE CONFERENCE IN BELGRADE, AND DISARMAMENT.

6. SPOKESMEN FOR ALL THE EP POLITICAL GROUPS PRAISED ANDERSEN FOR HIS TIRELESS EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN EP/COUNCIL RELATIONS (COMMENT: A POLICY HE ACTIVELY PURSUED THROUGHOUT HIS PRESIDENCY). HOWEVER, THEY EXPRESSED SOME DISAPPOINTMENT AT THE COUNCIL'S FAILURE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON COMMON EC FISHERIES AND ENERGY POLICIES. MOREOVER, WHILE WELCOMING THE ONGOING EFFORTS TO DEVELOP COMMON STRATEGY FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH, THEY NEVERTHELESS CRITICIZED THE COUNCIL FOR ITS SLOWNESS IN ADOPTING CONCRETE MEASURES FOR REDRESSING EC MEMBER STATE ECONOMIES. IN THE MAIN, HOWEVER, MOST SPEAKERS FOCUSED THEIR ATTENTION ON THE NINE'S POLICIES TOWARD AFRICA, WHICH THEY CONSIDERED TO BE INADEQUATE AND WHICH THEY BELIEVED SHOULD BE MORE DYNAMIC, SPECIFIC, AND UNIFORM GIVEN THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP EXISTING BETWEEN EUROPE AND AFRICA. COMMENTING ON ANDERSEN'S REMARKS ON AFRICA, SPOKESMEN FROM THE VARIOUS POLITICAL GROUPS CRITICIZED WHAT THEY CONSIDERED THE ESSENTIALLY "DO NOTHING" ATTITUDE OF THE NINE ON SOUTHERN AFRICA, AND WERE UNANIMOUS IN EXPRESSING THEIR SURPRISE AT ANDERSEN'S FAILURE TO MENTION THE SITUATION IN ZAIRE. (COMMENT: ANDERSEN DID NOT MENTION ZAIRE BECAUSE THIS IS NOT A TOPIC ON WHICH THE NINE HAVE DEVELOPED A COMMON POLICY WITHIN THE POLITICAL COOPERATION FRAMEWORK.) SEVERAL PARLIAMENTARIANS, WHILE WELCOMING THE HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTION OF BELGIUM AND FRANCE IN ZAIRE, WARNED AGAINST EUROPE'S MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA AS THIS WILL NOT CONTRIBUTE TOWARD STABILITY ON THE CONTINENT. WHILE

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ACKNOWLEDGING THAT EUROPE HAS A POLITICAL ROLE TO PLAY IN THAT AREA OF THE WORLD, THE SAME SPEAKERS CONTENTED THAT THE EC'S POLICIES SHOULD BE PRIMARILY DIRECTED TOWARD PROMOTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. A FEW SPEAKERS WARNED THAT ASSISTANCE IN THIS FIELD SHOULD BE PROPERLY CHANN-NELED LEST IT MERELY SERVE TO PROP UP CORRUPT REGIMES.
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